IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application of: Devlin et al Docket: 2000P59112US02

Filed: February 5, 2004 Group Art Unit: 1797

Serial No.: 10/773,079 Examiner: Gakh, Yelena G.

Title: Method of Storing and Reprocessing

Patient Specimens in an Automatic Analyzer

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE UNDER 37 CFR 1.116

Commissioner for Patents P. O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

This communication is in response to the Examiner's Final Office Action dated December 3, 2008, in which claims 1-2, 4-6 and 8-10 were rejected. Applicants respectfully request entry of this communication after final and reconsideration of claim 8. In the alternative, Applicants respectfully request entry of this communication in order to present rejected claim in better form for consideration on appeal.